

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (previously presented): A device configured to control access to databases storing personal profiles by a plurality of remote entities within a telecommunication network supporting a plurality of services, the device comprising:

 a first plurality of databases and interfaces for managing and centrally controlling access, from any of said remote entities to said first plurality of databases and to a second plurality of databases, said interfaces comprising:

 a plurality of adapters configured to allow access to the first and second plurality of databases, each adapter configured to manage a corresponding database typology,

 a plurality of application interfaces configured to allow access to the first and second plurality of databases by said plurality of remote entities and configured to manage different mechanisms for accessing databases,

 an authentication unit configured to identify said remote entities,

 an authorization unit configured to authorize said remote entities to use said adapters, by verifying essential requirements and the management of a corresponding authorization to use, and

 an accounting unit configured to track the accesses to said first and second plurality of databases.

2 (previously presented): The device of claim 1, wherein the accounting unit tracks the accessing of the one or more first and second databases by registering each access of a database, information related to the identity of the remote entity that made the access, the access times and the data exchanged during access.

3 (previously presented): The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of services comprises one of Voice over IP, multimedia and internet services.

4 (previously presented): The device of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of adapters allows access to the plurality of first and second databases independently from a technology of the particular database.

5 (previously presented): The device of claim 1, wherein the access to the application interfaces corresponds to at least one of a plurality of authorizations contained in an XML descriptor.

6 (currently amended): The ~~apparatus~~-device of claim 1, wherein each of the interfaces allows access to one of the plurality of first and second databases via one of a trusted application interface and an untrusted application interface, wherein the trusted application interface is used when access is requested by an authorized application, and wherein the untrusted application interface is used when access is requested by an unknown application.

7 (previously presented): The device of claim 6, wherein each of the interfaces allows access to one of the plurality of first and second databases in a read mode.

8 (previously presented): The device of claim 6, wherein each of the interfaces allows access to one of the plurality of first and second databases in a write mode for entering new information.

9 (previously presented): The device of claim 6, wherein each of the interfaces allows access to one of the plurality of first and second databases in a write mode for modifying existing information.

10 (previously presented): The device of claim 6, wherein each of the interfaces allows access to one of the plurality of first and second databases in a search mode.

11 (previously presented): The device of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of first databases contains user profile information.

12 (previously presented): The device of claim 11, wherein the user profile comprises one or more of: identity data, personal data, preference data, subscribed services and used terminal data.

13 (previously presented): The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of first databases contains service profile information.

14 (previously presented): The device of claim 13, wherein the service profile comprises information corresponding to the configuration of services for each user.

15 (previously presented): The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of first databases contains information corresponding to one or more terminals used in the multimedia and the telecommunication service networks.

16 (previously presented): The device of claim 15, wherein the information corresponding to the one or more terminals is stored in a generic terminal profile database, and a network terminal profile database, wherein the generic terminal profile database stores information relative to static characteristics of terminals and the network terminal profile database stores information relative to dynamic characteristics of terminals.

17 (canceled)

18 (previously presented): A method of providing a plurality of remote entities access to one or more databases for storing personal profiles within a telecommunication network supporting at least one of: Voice over IP, multimedia services and internet services, and for controlling said access, the method comprising:

- receiving an access request from any of said remote entities;

- authenticating said remote entity by identifying the remote entity requesting access;

- providing a logically centralized access to said databases for storing personal profiles by a plurality of application interfaces suitably configured to manage different mechanisms for

accessing databases and by a plurality of adapters configured to allow access to said databases, each adapter configured to manage a corresponding database typology; and

tracking said access by registering information related to the identity of the remote entity that effected the access.

19 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein tracking said access comprises collecting information corresponding to access time and data exchanged during the access.

20 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein authenticating said remote entity comprises authorizing said remote entity by verifying essential requirements and management of a corresponding authorization to use.

21 (canceled)

22 (previously presented) A computer readable storage medium having computer executable instructions stored thereon, that when executed by a computer perform a method of providing a plurality of remote entities access to one or more databases for storing personal profiles within a telecommunication network supporting at least one of: Voice over IP, multimedia services and internet services, and for controlling said access, the method comprising:

receiving an access request from any of said remote entities;

authenticating said remote entity by identifying the remote entity requesting access;

providing a logically centralized access to said databases for storing personal profiles by a plurality of application interfaces suitably configured to manage different mechanisms for accessing databases and by a plurality of adapters configured to allow access to said databases, each adapter configured to manage a corresponding database typology; and

tracking said access by registering information related to the identity of the remote entity that effected the access.

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23 (previously presented): The device of claim 1, wherein the second plurality of databases is located separately from the device.